

### **ARANSAS PASS CITY NEWS**

Issue 60 October 2022

## City Council Approves a \$23. 5 Million Budget

Work on the FY23 Aransas Pass Operating Budget now is complete. The process began last Spring. In June the annual budget strategic meeting was held between the City Council and department heads to set budgetary priorities. A few weeks later, all day meetings were held between the budget committee, composed of City Councilmember Vickie Abrego, Finance Director Sandra Garcia and City Manager Gary Edwards. Every line of the budget was reviewed during this stage. Some of the budget highlights:

Anticipated Revenues \$25,473,891

Anticipated Expenditures \$25,340,971

Anticipated General Fund Balance 38.15%

Five new positions are budgeted Police Dept. 2: Parks and Rec 1; Watter/Sewer 2

COLA of 4% for non-exempt employees (these generally are hourly employees); 3% for exempt employees; 1.5% for Directors.



# AGAIN THIS YEAR, CITY LOWERS PROPERTY TAX

The Property tax rate for FY23 is \$0.774362. The FY22 tax rate was \$0.784481. This is a decrease of \$0.010119. This marks the 2nd year in a row a city tax decrease has occurred. It is important to note that property valuations are not set by City. This is decided by the Countywide Appraisal District.



Public Works deals with many water/wastewater excavations, road patches, cave-ins and construction. All these events require proper backfill to prevent failure at unexpected times. The most important part of backfilling is not simply following proper procedures, but understanding the soil with which you are backfilling. Also, it is important to understand the molecular structure to stabilize the material. So, Public Works held a "baking class" where the team made multiple mixtures of soil, some with 8% cement stabilization and some just natural. They then placed them in a tin loaf pan and baked them in the sun. The results showed which mixture failed and which passed the compaction test. The pic above shows the test results being put to practical use during actual field work. The pic below shows the baking class in session.



### THE ARANSAS PASS "STATE OF THE CITY" IS GOOD

The Annual Chamber of Commerce sponsored State of the City report was given to a record sized crowd on September 8th. The speech, by City Manager Gary Edwards, was presented on the five year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey. Edwards said the recovery has been successful. This is because of the work of citizens. the Mayor, City Council and staff. That epic storm has prepared AP for even more achievements. And the City now is poised to reach those goals. Additionally, all of our revenue generating sources have not only been strong...they have been exceptionally robust.. Edwards pointed out that the state of the City is good. The pic below was taken during the speech. The speech can be seen on the City's webpage aptx.gov



#### **CONTACT US**

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YOUR CITY COUNCIL

**Mayor Ram Gomez** 

Place 1—Carrie Scruggs, Mayor Pro Tem

Place 2- Jason Knight

Place 3 - Jan Moore

Place 4—Vickie Abrego



#### **BLUE STAR MEMORIAL**

The Hibiscus Garden Club of Aransas Pass, in partnership with the City of Aransas Pass, will be celebrating the installation of a Blue Star Memorial at Harbor Point Park at Conn Brown Harbor. The event will take place on October 22nd at 10:00 am. Blue Star Memorials honor all service members of the United States Armed Forces. Similar memorials can be found in cities across the nation. **J.M. Davidson** is donating the groundwork construction in preparation for the memorial. See pic below:







